General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.8 and Add.1)*]

61/12. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, in which it invited various specialized agencies as well as other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant international financial institutions to join in the efforts to implement the economic programmes and projects of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Appreciating the technical and financial assistance extended by the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations to the Economic Cooperation Organization for its economic programmes and projects, and encouraging them to continue their support,

Welcoming the endeavours of the Economic Cooperation Organization to consolidate its ties with the United Nations system and the relevant international and regional organizations for the development and promotion of projects in all priority areas,

Expressing its support for the relevant plans and programmes as well as the institutional changes in the Economic Cooperation Organization made with a view to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Expressing its grave concern and sympathy over the human casualties caused by the worst natural disasters and their devastating impact on the socio-economic situation in the Economic Cooperation Organization region, which is prone to disasters such as earthquakes, floods and drought,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 59/4 of 22 October 2004, [2] and expresses satisfaction at the mutually beneficial interaction between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

2. *Takes note* of the Baku Declaration, adopted at the ninth Economic Cooperation Organization summit, held in Baku on 5 May 2006, which provides guidelines to the Organization in areas such as trade, transportation, energy, agriculture, industry, health and the environment;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization at its fifteenth meeting of "ECO Vision 2015" as the basic reference document of the Economic Cooperation Organization, in line with the Millennium Development Goals, inter alia, in which the establishment of a free trade area in the region, facilitation of trade and investment information networking, transportation, the promotion of small- and medium-sized enterprises and utilization of new and renewable technologies are highlighted;

4. *Calls for* the strengthening of technical assistance of the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other trade-related United Nations bodies, such as the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, to States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, taking into account the fact that the member States are developing countries and countries with economies in transition, some of which are in the process of becoming members of the World Trade Organization and that their access to world markets and increasing intraregional and interregional trade through the implementation of regional trade agreements will boost their efforts to achieve their development goals;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Economic Cooperation Organization Decade of Transport and Communications (1998–2007), which is supported by technical assistance from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, especially for the elimination of non-physical barriers on main transit-transport routes of the region;

6. *Welcomes* the signing by most States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, which has been launched under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and calls upon the member States concerned to contribute to the operationalization of the project by identifying their priority investment projects;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization in developing a regional energy trade with the cooperation and active participation of subregional and international organizations such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank;

8. *Appreciates* that the Regional Programme for Food Security of the Economic Cooperation Organization has been formulated with the technical and financial assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and contributions of the Islamic Development Bank, invites the relevant United

[2] See A/61/256, part two, sect. XV.

Nations bodies, other international organizations and donor agencies to assist the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the efficient implementation of the Regional Programme, which contains eleven regional projects and several national projects, and, in this framework, expresses its appreciation for the signing and launching in early 2006 of the Technical Cooperation Programme for Strengthening Seed Supply in the Economic Cooperation Organization Region of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization, especially in such areas as industrial cooperation strategy, the transfer of technology, plans of action for small- and medium-sized enterprises and standardization, and invites the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue contributing to relevant activities and projects of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

10. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the identification of new fields of cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization and at establishing a new directorate of human resource and sustainable development to enhance cooperation on such important issues as health, the alleviation of poverty and human and sustainable development, and recommends that all relevant United Nations bodies, including the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, extend technical and financial support to the Economic Cooperation Organization in its endeavour to enhance cooperation in the above-mentioned areas;

11. *Welcomes* the signing of memorandums of understanding between the Economic Cooperation Organization and the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, and calls for the effective implementation of the memorandums;

12. *Takes note* of the contribution made by the Drug Coordination Control Unit of the Economic Cooperation Organization in compiling and disseminating drug-related data and in organizing training programmes/courses in the field of drug control for the experts of the member States, with the technical and financial assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the European Union, and invites the donor agencies to assist the Economic Cooperation Organization in funding the projects jointly prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

13. *Welcomes* efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization towards enabling conditions for Afghanistan to assume a more active role in the region in order to benefit from increased trade and export opportunities, and, while taking note of the valuable contribution of the Economic Cooperation Organization in improving the extent and scope of the reintegration of Afghanistan into regional cooperation schemes, appreciates the operationalization of the Special Fund of the Economic Cooperation Organization to finance some priority projects in Afghanistan, and invites the relevant United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization for the successful implementation of its current programmes and

projects and the Plan of Action for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Afghanistan, and of a new plan after its expiry in 2007;

14. *Invites* the United Nations system, its relevant bodies and the international community to continue to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in developing and enhancing their early warning systems, preparedness, capacity for timely response and rehabilitation, with a view to reducing human casualties and mitigating the socio-economic impact of natural disasters and infectious diseases;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the strides made by the Economic Cooperation Organization in the sphere of external relations, and expresses its desire for the strengthening of the Organization's relations with other international/regional organizations through the establishment of a mechanism to accord it the status of observer/dialogue partner and through the activation of contact groups in the relevant international forums;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

52nd plenary meeting
13 November 2006